Inflation squeezes libraries

by Carmi Z. Levy

Concordia's libraries are purchasing fewer and fewer books each year as inflation continues to outpace acquisition budget increases.

Director of Libraries Al Mate says the libraries are losing "anywhere between 20 and 35 per cent of our buying power with each passing year."

The libraries received $1.75 million for the 1987-88 fiscal year to purchase books and periodicals. That represents a 4.8 per cent boost over last year's $1.67 million figure. The problem, saysMate, is that inflation in the publishing sector is much higher than anywhere else.

"We've had to pay exorbitant prices, and it cuts into our book budgets. Naturally it hurts our buying power for books tremendously," mate said," $1.75 million doesn't buy you very much today."

Martin Cohen, Concordia's collections development and management librarian, says periodicals and journals have experienced the steepest price gains, and that's hurting book purchases.

"Journals have become more expensive very rapidly, much more rapidly than books.

"If journal prices keep going up like this, it'll only be a matter of a few years before we can't afford any books," Cohen said, "and it won't be too long after that before we can't afford journals either."

Mate says the relatively weak Canadian dollar coupled with the already-high subscription rates for European journals isn't helping matters. The impending federal sales tax on printed materials and the proposed new copyright laws would drive prices up even more, says Mate.

"This is not a healthy situation," he said.

Students can expect to see fewer books on library shelves, and fewer copies of popular books, said Mate. He said students will really feel the pinch around exam and term paper time when the books they need for research will simply not be there.

"It will definitely have a long-range impact on the size and the quality o our collections," Mate said.

Cohen says the libraries are already in a precarious situation, and the ever-tightening budget is making things worse.

"Right now, we're certainly living from year to year, and sometimes from day to day," he said.

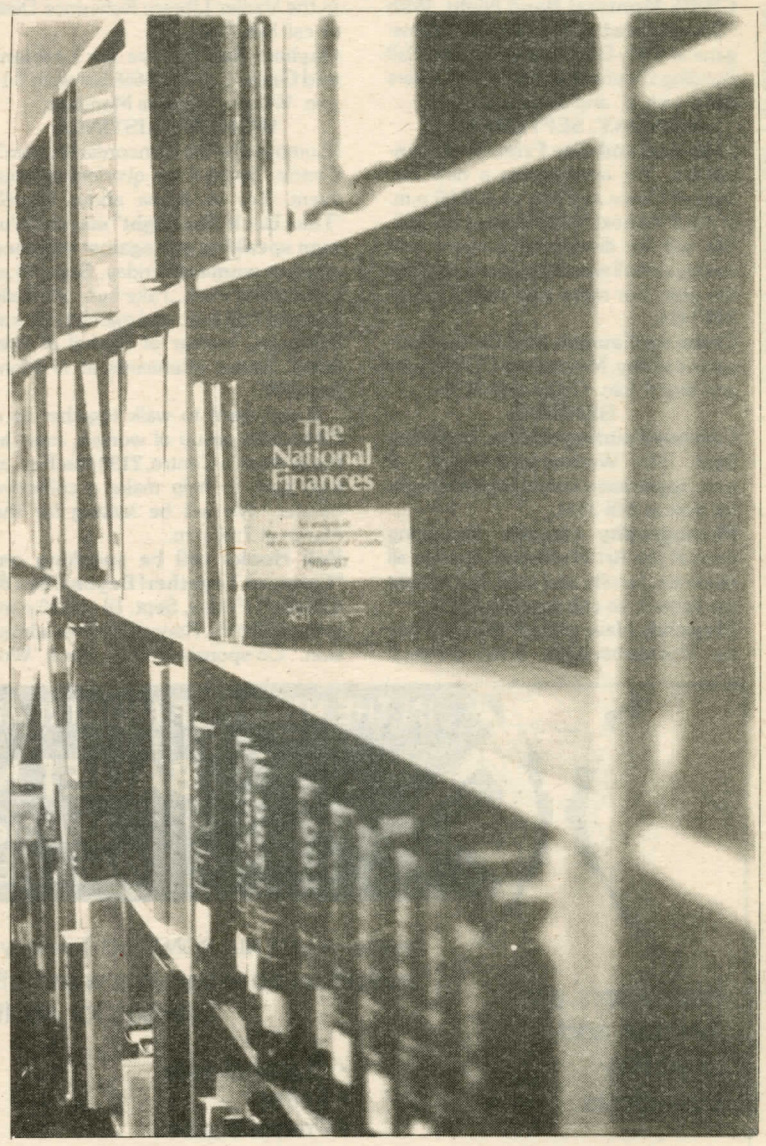

Photo Credit: Robert Bock

The empty space on the bookshelf is a warning sign for what may be the future of Concordian libraries

the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 8, Number 3
Friday, September 18, 1987

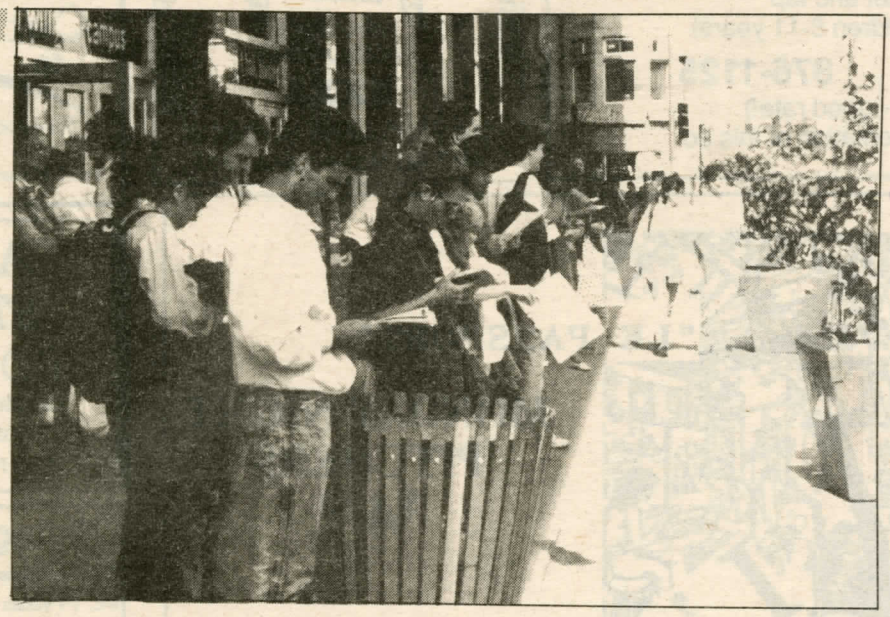

Photo Credit: Robert Bock

Long line ups and missed classes— Is that a service?

Shuttle not worth the wait

by Francine Dubé

Hundreds of students were left standing on the curb at Loyola and Sir George campuses this week as jam-packed buses closed their doors to long line-ups.

"Every second bus is full," said Tynette Deveaux, as she watched a shuttle bus pull away. "My class is in 15 minutes and I'm going to be late—again. I'm a first year student and this isn't making a very good impression on me."

"During peak hours some people have to wait for two buses before being able to get on," says Walter Wheatley, a security officer at the Hall building.

But Bill Jerecum, currently in charge of shuttle bus services, says no one has complained to him of a problem.

"If we do hear quite a few complaints then we'll have to do something about it, but as far as I'm concerned, everything is doing well," Jerecum said.

He says that students can't expect to get from one campus to the other in less than half an hour and they have to take that into account.

"Students have to learn to fit the shuttle bus into their schedule," Jerecum said.

"Traditionally," says Frank Papineau of the physical plant, "(there are long line-ups) at the beginning of each term. Then things settle down. Why? We don't know. Maybe people work out their schedule or drop courses..."

Or maybe, like Johanne Pomrenski, people give up on the shuttle and look for alternative means of transportation.

"This is my first year, and I'm thinking of taking the metro," Pomrenski said. "Forget the shuttle bus. I knew there was a shuttle bus when I enrolled at Concordia, but I didn't know it was going to be a problem."

continued on Page 3

Automation may come, jobs could be the price

by Scott McCulloch

A plan to computerize the Concordia libraries' index system may end up jeopardizing the jobs of a number of employees.

Automation of the library system-designed to simplify service for users-would include the introduction of a computerized cataloguing system which would allow students access to information the present index cards can not supply.

Charles Giguère, the vice-rector in charge of library services, says the system is still two to three years down the road but the university is now starting to look at the different options available.

Giguère says that implementing automation at the libraries is not definite, but if it does happen it could cost as much as $1 million.

"The cost depends on the kind of solution you approach if you go out and buy a ready made system," Giguère said. "We're talking in the vicinity of $1 million "

Alex Olynyk, head of the National Union of Sir George Williams University's Employees (NUSGWUE), suspects that the university may use automation as an excuse to lay off some library staff.

"These automations are still a long way off and we will be monitoring the situation very closely," Olynyk said. " We have to be vigilant."

Al Mate, director of library services, says that he doesn't see layoffs as a byproduct of automation.

"Automation will take a long time and if layoffs do occur, it'll be because the university is in a lot of financial difficulty and has to bite the bullet," Mate said.

He says that he also sees the possibility of an increase in jobs because of an expected increase in services at the libraries through automation.

"Certain jobs do become redundant, but other jobs appear because the services increase," he said. "It might happen that staffs might be reduced, but I would imagine they would be reduced by attrition."

McGill University started installing an on-line integrated cataloguing system during the spring of this year.

Carole Renahn, area personnel officer at McGill's McLennan library, says that automation at McGill has changed some jobs but no one has been laid off.

"They may not need eight circulation assistants at a desk, but that doesn't mean to say that they will lose jobs," Renahn said. "We do have other jobs. Now, if they choose not to accept another position, that would be their prerogative."

Agenda

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ZOO '87 presents: ZOO BASH! CRSG Montreal Band Night. With "Disappointed A Few People, Yemsgane and My Dog Popper." In the Hall Building Cafeteria at 9:00 p.m. Tickets $4.00 with id. and $5.00 without.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Lesbiand and Gay Friends of Concordia. We are forming a new collective! Come and join us at 2:00 p.m. in the P-Annex(2020 Mackay) rm. 102. We will be discussing projects and events as well as setting up a budget for the year. For more info. call CUSA at 848-7474.

Clubs on Campus day! On the Mezzanine all day. Meet all the CUSA clubs and more! Info. CUSA 848-7474.

GENERAL

Chinese Painting classes: Beginning Sept. 16th, Wednesdays 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., registration limited so please register now at 848-3511.

Photography classes: Beginning soon at the Art Workshop, open to all students, faculty and staff, but spaces are limited, so call now 848-3511.

Musiclub. Have a band? We need you for Rocktober(Oct. 2-23) Original music only. Drop us a line (one week left!!!) Chris 722-2054 or Fabrice 277-7328.

General tours of the Vanier Library are being offered now until September 30. If interested please inquire at the Vanier Library Reference Desk or call 848-7766.

Gayline: Rap Centre for Lesbians and Gays. Call 931-8668 between 7-11 p.m. Woman answers Mondays.

WOMEN'S LISTINGS

(Compiled by the Concordia Women's Centre. Sorry if we overlooked your event. Let us know about them!!)

'Take Back The Night" march (Women speaking out against violence against women). Friday, Sept. 18 at LaFontaine Park. Take bus 24. Rally starts at 7:15 p.m. and march begins at 8:00 p.m., corner of Rachel & Breboeuf. Danse afterwards at 77 Mont Royal W.

If you want to walk together as a Concordia group of women, meet at the Women's Centre, 2130 MacKay, at 6:00 p.m. to help make a collective banner. We will be leaving for the March at 7:00 p.m.

Bell Hooks will be speaking on: "Forward Together! Beyond Sex & Colour". Friday, Sept. 18 at 8:30 p.m. in the Hall bldg. Room 110. Free admission. Co-sponsored by: Black Women's Coalition and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. More info. call: 848-2370 or 932-1107.

Tune in on RADIO CENTRE VILLE (CINQ-MF 102.3/Cable 96.5) from 11:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. on sept. 18th for... "Radical Feminists Take Back the Night" - discussion on a New York conference held last April titled " The Sexual Liberals & the Attack on deminism".

THE CONCORDIA WOMEN'S CENTRE IN NOW OPEN!!! All students, staff and faculty are welcome to drop in (2130 MacKay) or give us a call at 848-7431 in order to get more information, have a chat, meet some interesting women, let us in on your needs and/or to volunteer your valuable time and energy! Office hours for the following week are: Mon - Tues - Fri 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wed - Thurs 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOMED!! Come and meet some neat women and share ideas, skills and knowledge by helping out in the office and/or join the variety of working committees that are freshly underway! NEXT MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO YOU: General information/Volunteer Meeting is on Sept. 23rd at 6:15ish p.m. in the Centre and the first Programming committee meeting, Sept. 23rd at 8:30 a.m. (Coffee supplied!!) in the Centre. DON'T BE SHY!!

Sexual Assault Center(Volunteers recruitment). The Sexual Assault Centre has been operating since 1980. Among the services, it offers a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week crisis line, operated by trained volunteers. The centre is currently recruiting concerned, bilingual women interested in becoming volunteers on the telephone crisis line. The training session will take place September 11, 12, 13 and 19. If you are interested and would like further information, please call us at 934-4504.

The Women's Studies Student Association needs your student participation. Our office is located at 2170 bishop St. MV-301 (ext. 7449). We hope to hear from you!

Classified

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Typing: Wordpro. 676-2988.

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Attention Students and professors. Typing done at my home. Reasonable rate 481-6048.

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Great 4 1/2 to share with Graduate student or (visiting) professor, female preferred. Call C.D. after 9:30 p.m. 487-7910.

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Reliable woman to drive child to after-school activities. Car provided. Three late afternoons, early evenings. Weekly. Call 487-2528.

Wanted: Dancers to participate in Mexican Folklore shows. Auditions September 20th and 27th. Call 646-4218.

Busperson job Mon.-Fri. 9-5 at Old Montreal Bistro. Call before noon or after 2:00 p.m. Ask for Stephen: 845-5436.

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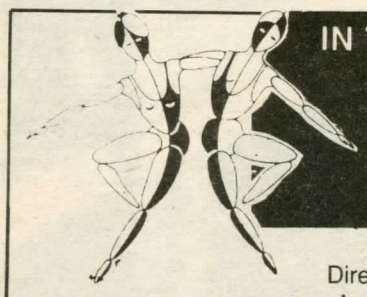
continued on page 4



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ANEQ attacks underfunding

MONTREAL (CUP)-University and college underfunding will remain the major post-secondary education issue in Quebec, says the province's largest student coalition.

According to the Association des etudiants et etudiantes du Quebec (ANEQ), the lack of provincial subsidies has forced universities and colleges to rely more on incidental fees and private funding.

"The government has made public promises last year—now it is time they deliver the goods," said ANEQ executive Jean-Pierre Pacquet, referring to premier Robert Bourassa's comment that education was the government's second priority after health.

"The government tried to throw a smokescreen in the last budget when it announced an additional $80 million to the education portfolio," said Pacquet. "Since the sum is spread over three or four years, that's only a 2 per cent increase.

"Considering that they just decreed the most severe cutbacks in the history of university capital budgets, a 2 per cent increase is not enough—there are still many problems," Pacquet said.

Coming back from the first part of a provincial visit of member associations, the ANEQ executive expressed concern about the proliferation of incidental fees at the collegial level.

"The law says that college education should be free for people whose main occupation is studying," said Pacquet. "Well, when you have to pay 30 or 40 dollars for a compulsory physical education course, that's not really free is it?

"There is an obvious effort to atrophy the college system in Quebec. The government does not have a declared policy, but the way it acts is indicative enough."

Colleges in Quebec have suffered a total of $108 million in cutbacks over the last 10 years, reducing their operating budgets by 33 per cent. College cutbacks will amountto $12 million for this academic year.

"Because of the cutbacks, no new programmes are created in expanding fields like computer science or design," said Pacquet. "Instead, only private schools can afford to offer these programmes.

"There is here a trend towards privatisation of the college system. Only private institutions can offer new programmes because they have the money. This would cost students several thousand dollars to cover their tuitions when college education should be free in theory."

According to Pacquet, the trend towards privatisation is also found at the university level, where corporate sponsorship is encouraged to help fund research programmes.

"The last provincial budget gave $100 million in fiscal deductions for companies that would invest in university research," said Pacquet. "For every dollar that companies will invest, they will get a 93-cent deduction.

"Instead of paying people to invest, why isn't the government assuming its public responsibility by giving additional funds directly?" he said.

"At least research priorities wouldn't be directed by the private industry."

2000 students have already signed a CUSA sponsored petition to stop cutbacks to library services, CUSA hopes the petition will put pressure on the university to stop the reductions in service.

MORE CUTS

Library **hours** are not the only things being cut, here's a list of some of the other library services being cutback:

- The number of library **staff** is being reduced
- **New book** purchases are being trimmed
- The budget for **serials** is being slashed
- Book **storage runs** are being reduced from every two hours to twice per day.

At the same time, library use is increasing and the already poor conditions of the Concordia libraries are getting worse.

Demand better libraries and an end to the cutbacks: sign this card and drop it off at either CUSA office (H-637 or Campus Centre basement).

Signature:_____ i.d.# _____

Students learn by helping others

by Brian Dryden

Montreal teenagers needing positive role models may soon be able to look up to a Concordia student.

The Canadian Association for the Advancement of People (CAAP) hopes to use university students in a Big Brother/Sister-like relationship with teenagers in a new program.

The program, designed by CAAP president Felix Weekes, will link teenagers who need encouragement and help with student volunteers.

Weekes said the program, called the Aspirational Sports- Academic Advancement Program (ASAAP), will help teenagers from impoverished homes strive to "react their full potential" and look to education and particularly universities as a way out of their situations.

"'I know that when I went to high school I thought 'education, screw this'," Weekes said. "But I'm in university, and now I know the importance of it and I want these kids to have the same chance."

The program already has the support of the Applied Social Science department and the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal (PSBGM), all it needs to get started is a line up of student volunteers.

Dorothy Markiewicz, applied social science department chairperson, feels the CAAP program is a perfect opportunity for students to get real experience in their field of study by supplying leadership and counselling to teenagers in need.

"It is just the kind of thing we want our students to get involved in," she said.

Markiewicz has suggested that professors encourage students to get involved with the program as part of their field study requirements.

She also feels that the student association and the university as a whole should support the program.

"The university should support a student who is helping others in the community who are less fortunate," Markiewicz said.

Weekes says CAAP has the support of five area PSBGM schools and through the guidance counselors at the schools he hopes to establish relationships between the kids and volunteers.

"Teenagers who may not open up about their problems or hopes to a councelor may find it easier to talk to university students because the difference in age is not as great," he said.

"Teenagers who may not open up about their problems or hopes to a councelor may find it easier to talk to university students because the difference in age is not as great," he said.

Weekes hopes the project will help the kids "broaden their horizons" through contact with a university atmosphere. He plans to have volunteers bring kids into university class rooms, to varsity games and take part in other activities so they will understand what universities offer and that they're not like high school.

"If we could influence one kid," Weekes said. " It will be successful.

News Briefs

March against violence

Anywhere from 400 to 700 women are expected to take to the darkened streets for the "Take Back the Night" march tonight.The march is a candlelight vigil held to promote awareness of violence against women.

Last year close to one thousand women marched through the streets of Montreal as part of the event.

First organised on the spur of the moment, by women of San Fransisco, the march was a response to the rise of violence against women in their community. The idea of the march spread and now 'Take Back the Night' is commemorated all over North America and Europe.

The march is scheduled to begin with a rally at 7:15 p.m. at Lafontaine Park at the corner of Rachel and Brebeuf with a dance afterwards at l'Usine.

For further information women should telephone the Montreal Women's Coalition at 842-2982 or Elaine Sher at 487-5946.

Watch T.V. at McGill

MONTREAL (CUP)-First-year political science students at McGill University may have to watch videos instead of attending classes this term.

Unexpected increases of up to 80 per cent in student enrollment have forced the political science department to organise a system of "video instruction" to relieve overcrowded classrooms.

According to the plan, half of the students enrolled in a course would attend lectures while the other half would later watch videotapes of the class. Each group would rotate every two or three weeks.

"I came to McGill to get a personalised service, not to watch TV," said first-year student David Heath. "It seems to me that I'm paying for a very expensive TV programme."

"Unfortunately, it's a negative trade-off that students must pay for low fees," said professor Paul Noble, head of the political science department.

"Videotaping will act simply as a band-aid for wounds which we did not see," Noble said, adding that the measures were temporary.

Women kicked out

Cup files- Halifax HALIFAX CUP—Just as Concordia opened its womens centre women at Dalhousie University may losing their centre.

The community women's centre on the Dalhousie campus in Halifax will be kicked out of its present location because the university needs the space for what they say are more importantgroups.

The centre, run by the Patchwork Collective, was established in March 1986 and is the only community support group for women in Halifax.

"We're partly to blame," said Eri Goodman, a member of Patchwork. "We never got a contract signed."

Doug Henson, the dean of Henson College which operates the building housing the centre, said the college made no commitments to the centre and they don't have the money to continue operating it.

Still waiting for bus

continued from Page 1

Getting more buses in service or increasing the frequency of already existing services would be one way to cut down on the line-ups. But that could be a fiscal problem.

The cost of operating the shuttle runs between $175,000-$200,000 per year, according to Papineau. During years when there is a municipal bus strike, the costs run higher because shuttle services are expanded to offset the problems caused by lack of municipal transportation.

One possible solution would be to have a "clean-up" bus, picking up students left behind by regularly scheduled shuttle buses. The cost of such an effort would be $300 per day.

But Papineau says, "it would be pretty hard to put on more buses, because of the cost involved."

There is no specific budget for the shuttle bus. The operating costs come out of the physical plant budget, which covers such things as maintenance of Concordia buildings and grounds.

Papineau says that proposed changes to the shuttle system would have to be strongly justified, but "if the need is there and we can identify it, we'll make every effort to alleviate the problem."

NEW DANCE MOVEMENT

by Stephen Dafoe

The huge public and critical success of the first **Festival of Nouvelle Danse** is a tough act to follow. Anyone who attended performances held here two years ago still has many vivid memories of exciting and wonderful things rarely seen in the city of Montreal. This year's festival follows the same formula: assemble in one place as many "extraordinary" dance companies and choreographers as possible. Something memorable is bound to result.

Repeating as the festival opener, La La La Human Steps are the best-known of the Montreal troupes who have made a living out of flirting with danger onstage. Since their auspicious beginnings in the early '80's (which earned former Concordia film student Edouard Locke the prestigious Chalmers Award for his choreography) the company has gained a near-cult following in Canada , Europe and the U.S., especially in New York where thy have also won awards.

La La La's stage acts pit the tempest-like umbling and tossing of the dancers, and automated audio-visual high-tech gadgetry against an aloof, detached Locke, who makes puzzling inquiries of the spectators, and offers a seemingly absurd running social commentary. The intent is to "unbalance" the audience.

Questions have been raised about the value and validity of the very real danger to the dancers a they fling themselves through the air. But the recklessness is entirely n keeping with La La La's punk, semi-nihilistic cachet.

Watching Marie Chouinard's work is something like watching a long forgotten, pagan ritual. Evoking airs of mystery, sensuality, vulgarity, and a childlike innocence and frankness, Chouinard can alternately daw her audience into complicity in the event as it unfolds, and then pointedly remind them that it's all make-believe. Her charisma and conviction onstage makes the performance a rite shared with the audience, and the communication seems to take place on an intimate level.

Contemporary Dancers from Winnipeg are enjoying a renaissance under the direction of dancer-choreographer Tedd Robinson. Spawned from the heyday of the York University dance program, his recent appointment to the artistic direction has brought a new vitality to one of Canada's oldest dance companies. Robinson's creations often have the poetry and/or the absurdity of dreams about them.

At the festival, Contemporary dancers are presenting *Camping Out*, a choreographic collaboration in the form of a surreal soiree, with Franz Liszt as the guest of honour.

From Vancouver, Jumpstart is the multi-faceted result of collaboration between dancer-dance maker Lee Eisler and writer-composer Nelson Gray. Their productions incorporate text, movement, song, and high-tech gizmos into a "performance art" style media overload.

Jumpstart has a fresh-faced look to it that has had a tendency to be cloying in the past. Yet there is ample imagination at work to make their performance interesting, without resorting to the kind of intimidating derring-do of some contemporary artists.

Rounding out the Canadian contribution to the festival are two women choreographers who share a spry athleticism and a penchant for taking risks onstage.

O Vertigo is the vehicle for the choreography of Ginette Laurin, winner of the 1986 Chalmers award. Laurin has also created works for other companies, including Les Grands Ballets and Judith Marcuse Repertory Dance ompany of Vancouver.

Ottawa native Julie West is presenting a premiere work, *Triad*, with a new company. With a background in contact and a reputation for being rough and ready onstage, West promises in *Triad* to explore movement and space in a more abstact fashion.

For those who really think about dance (as opposed to those who just like to watch), the festival organizers have scheduled a series of debates and conferences with many of the stellar intelligentsia of the dance world.

Especially promising are: a conference on *New Virtuosity* with Sally Banes (Fri. Sept. 25 at 2 p.m., Foyer Marie Gerin-Lajoie, UQAM), a debate on *New Dance in Quebec* (Thurs. Sept. 24, Theatre Alfred Laliberte, UQAM), and an absolute-must-attend debate on *Criticism and New Dance* moderated by Deborah Jowitt of The Village Voice (Mon. Sept. 21 at Theatre Alfred Laliberte, UQAM).

All events are $2, free for all university dance students. Shop wisely, and don't miss too much. As far as Nouvelle Danse goes, this is as good as it gets!

Ever get the feeling that the state d
pornography bills practically ban even t
Customs officials turn back the I arge
Toronto police raid four gay bath hous

The state's regulation of sex did not
Canada and the world. States have alw
citizens, but has always taken great in
sexuality.

In his book *The Regulation of Desire*
of lesbian and gay sexuality from fro
eroticism among Native Amaricans to
man, who has worked with the Gay Alli
tion Against the Right Everywhere, and
been a Toronto activist since the 70s.

He will be on hand during the book's
(3636 st-Laurent) at 8:00 on Monday.

no more boo

the Black WEDGE

by Thia Fuller

Got a job?
OK - yu got a job.
Save yur money?
Buy some things.
Yu know what I'm talking about - THINGS.

Gee, that's not Rock and Hyde. Who can it be? Clue number one: the band consists of one (1) vocalist and one (1) guitarist. Clue number two: they are co-founders of a Canadian political-performance tour that just finished its second round in two years. Clue number three: they played Monday night at le Milieu as part of our own ULTIMATUM II urban poetry festival (see plug in **cheapstuff** listings)

Stumped? Bored? Well, don't be. They're **Mecca Normal**, the co-founders are **Rhythm Activism**, the tour was **Black Wedge**, and their fellow tourists were women's industrial band **Mourning Sickness** and poets **Peter Plate** and **Bryan James**. They covered everything from art galleries to straight rock 'n' roll clubs.

"One of the highpoints was an impromptu performance on a car ferry in the Kootnays. One of the guys got up on the bus and started reading and people just crowded around," said David Lester, Mecca Normal's guitarist from outer space.

So - just what exactly is this performance/ poetry? The theme of the Black Wedge tour was "Oh Yes You CAN", which means oh yes you CAN get up on a stage without years of training and a million bucks; oh yes you CAN write great songs/ poetry about political issues; oh yes you CAN create change.

Black Wedge got started last year when Mecca Normal, Rhythm Activism and a few other artists got together for a spin down the West Coast. The name is a pun on the Red Wedge tour in England when socialist poets went touring around trying to get the Labour party into power. The common denominator is activism.

"We want poetry that provokes, not poetry that pacifies. We're provocateurs with ideas and information that a lot of people might not find easy to take. What I'm trying to do is share stories," said Norman Nawrocki, poet for Rhythm Activism.

Rhythm Activism does it with Norman's powerful poetry and "subversive string-plucking" by Dem Stink. Mecca Normal takes more of an industrial/ punk approach. Both bands use the same model of one vocalist, one guitarist.

"We're showing people you don't need a full band with a lot of equipment to be entertaining. The medium isn't beyond the reach of people who'd like to do the same thing but don't have much money," said Norman

Mecca Normal's Jean Smith likes the simplicity. "You can set up almost anywhere and perform sort of spontaneously."

The tour got lots of attention from all kinds of people: Brave New Waves, CBC am, and local college, music and community rags all over Western Canada.

"I think a lot of the music press are really bored by most of what's happening. They think a lot of stuff is really superficial," said David. "What we're trying to do is open people's minds, not just musically but politically. What we're doing with our music ties in with our political message."

People are sometimes put off by the more serious issues addressed by political poetry. "Why it seems so heavy is that here all of a sudden is a voice in the wilderness speaking **about a little-discussed subject," said Norman. "Where's our society at that people find it hard to listen to real social problems that affect each and every one of us?"**

Jean finds that people are intimidated by her angry stage presence. "There is that stereotype you really battle against, that women in rock use their sexuality to succeed. If you don't they suspect there's something wrong."

But the artists of Black Wedge plan to do it again. "In Vancouver we had five hundred people out which is pretty amazing because it was publicized explicitly as a political event. It was all sorts of people -not just young anarchist kids. I hope that'll be a trend, actually getting people interested enough to come out and expose themselves to something new," said David.

One woman said,
I don't like the way things are going.
One woman said,
I think I'll change it all.

Big Band Sound!?

By Lorrie Edmonds and bRENT bARRETT

SNFU are a band pulled out of the creative pocket of Canada's new music scene. Known for their ENERGY at live shows they've helped spawn an electric, Canadian reputati on. One of the biggest names in Canadian hardcore, **SNFU** have been slothing the scene with various incarnations since 1983. Their LP's **And No one Else Wanted to Play** (1984) and **If You Swear You'll Catch No Fish** (1986) haven't broken any records (pun intended) but are basking in a stable popularity.

The band has been around in various formations but the present line up is Chi Pig, Bon Tovan, Bug, Ted, Muck and the newest "snuffonian" Fred Kreiger. They have a good chemistry and Muck hopes "they'll stick, and this will be the last line up."

The band is currently ripping through a five week tour which has them swinging from Edmonton to the East Coast and then back to Edmonton in mid October. There's babblings of a possible European tour next year and maybe a few dates in Hawaii. The band is a firm believer in the let's-go-sip-mai-tais-on-the-beach concept.

It all sounds like great fun but **SNFU** is very serious about what they do. Whenever they play, beer becomes a reward and not a hedonistic luxury. They do indulge but not on tour, you can't afford hangovers when you want to do your best.

They enjoy playing in Montreal. One of the members said that "Montreal is really up there in the places that we like to play." But I bet he says that to all the cities they play in. The problem with Montreal is the lack of venues that will book hardcore on weekdays.

SNFU played one gig at the Spectrum and two others at Station Ten. They are making money, but nobodys making enough to support themselves. Their third album could change all that, it should be out sometime this winter and another tour is planned after its release. All of the members have input into the songs. Getting together is hard so they all produce material and then choose from it. Chi Pig, the lead vocalist writes most of the lyrics. Songs like **She's Not on the Menu** and **Money Matters** belt out hard against sexism and gross corruption.

So support the Canadian music scene and pick up the disc when it comes out, you won't be disappointed.

P.S. There's a video soon to come out on Much Music called **Black Cloud** but don't worry I don't think Erica knows about it yet!

BREAKING STEREOTYPES

by Gillian Kranias

To the theatre watchdog, **Black Theatre Workshop** (BTW) of Montreal is one local theatre company that consistently produces top-quality plays.

The group's productions bring to life unique stories and characters rarely depicted on the professional stage.

BTW aims to produce a broad variety of works which share and enrich Black culture in Canada. This has proven to be a large and challenging commitment.

As Clarence Dean, a founding member and current executive producer of BTW, says: "We have been stereotyped simply because we are a Black company. People think 'Black people can dance' and 'Black people can sing'. But they do not want to see serious Black acting."

Obvious patterns in the fluctuating size of BTW's audiences reflect this situation. BTW has an established audience within the Black community, but only productions like, *God's Trombones* (a gospel musical performed last year) become great hits. "Because why?" exclaims Dean, "because we're going to preach and sing!"

BTW wants to break these stereotypes, to share "who we really are; how we act; how we feel; and what we want." Dean explains, "we are doing what we have to do, but we are dying — suffering, for it."

With such a predicament, BTW must try to foster a balance between the pressure to ensure successful productions and the need to remain true to its aims. Through the years, the path has been difficult, but not without its rewards.

BTW evolved out of an amateur theatre group called the Trinidad and Tobego Drama committee. "Originally," remembers Dean, "the works were closely related to personal experiences in the Caribbean: before Canada." Dean calls this "nostalgic theatre".

Along with the help of a few professional theatre people, the largely amateur group made several successful productions mixing theatre with dance and music. They called a few of their shows *calypsoperas*.

Their first big, primarily professional production was a play by Black writer/editor/playwrite Lawrence Elliot. *How Now Black Man*, a type of social critique, engaged the Trinidad and Tobego group with new themes, a broader specturm of Montreal's Black community and a wider audience, since it played at the Centaur. "This work set up the concept of BTW," says Dean. BTW was established soon afterwards, in 1971.

Since then, BTW has steadily produced plays and held workshops for the Montreal audience. Plays about new immigrants struggling to adapt to Canadian customs, habits and skills; plays about individuals wanting to express their experience, yet forever being silenced, never being heard. BTW has also adopted plays produced by the *Negro Ensemble*, an American Black theatre company.

Other Black theatre companies exist in Canada, for example *Fountainhead Theatre* of Toronto, which was founded by one of BTW's originals, Jeff Henry.

According to Dean, BTW would like to collaborate with other Canadian companies in "a coordinated systematic effort to achieve specific objectives on a national level." Although these companies occasionally share actors, their ultimate dream has not, yet, materialized.

BTW, even after 16 years on the professional theatre scene in Canada, is presently too overwhelmed with funding and space crises to devote energy towards building a national network of Black voices in Canadian theatre.

Dean claims that last year the City promised BTW its own space for performing. However, now that the government is in power... (the usual story). At present, the company is stuck with accepting vacant slots in the programs of larger theatres, like the Centaur. These slots are always during low-season months like June and September. Running plays during these times is a high-risk enterprise. Yet, as Dean says, "BTW must produce shows, in order to employ its people, develop an audience... and continue."

Space problems are only added to funding problems. BTW has never had the money to create the publicity, or to "give away shows", as Dean puts it, to draw in and establish a substantial audience for their company. Dean identifies a need to convince big corporations - Labatts, Molsons, Alcan, etc. - that BTW is a worthwhile investment.

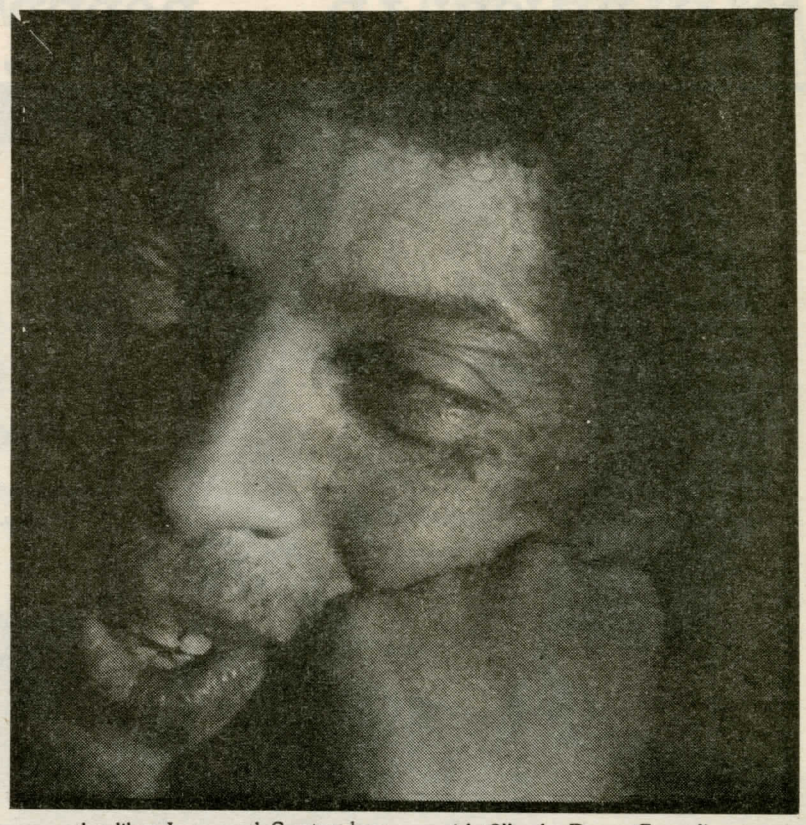
"In the past," says Dean, "we have criticized the Canada Council for supporting Shakespeare and Shaw and neglecting Canadian works." The Canada Council has changed recently and specifies Canadian work and Canadian content as criteria for its funding grants. This should give an advantage to BTW. Only, new problems arise.

"How do we sensitize Canadians to themselves and to those they are amidst?" asks Dean. Canadians as a whole are not interested in Canadian stories. We consider Canadian history *boring*.

"It is not easy to break Canadian thinking and habits", says Dean. "We - BTW and all companies - need help. There are a lot of infrastructures that are not there. It will take a lot of investment in audience development."

Nonetheless, BTW is as ready as ever to meet the challenge. *Tightrope Time*, a play about Nova Scotia Blacks is currently playing at the Centaur. *God's Trombones* is returning for a short run in a few weeks. In February, BTW will produce a play about the legendary singer Marvin Gaye. (For more info: 932-6311)

As Clarence Dean sees it, BTW has succeeded in its effort to develop good theatre. And it has succeeded triumphantly in that! BTW's future will involve struggles to reach a broader audience, to overcome the stereotypes which hinder its message, and to introduce Canadians to Canadian stories and culture through theatre.



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Theatre Shmeatre's **LOSERS**, a musical will be held over for 2 more gut wrenching humour packed nights. It's the first anti baby boomer play in the history of drama. Catch the bonanza **Sept 19th and 20th** at 4297 St. Laurent. Tickets are $4.00 for students and $6.00 fer all youse other people. You don't have to but you better make reservations by calling 289-9725.

Hey, it's the 124th anniversary of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montreal. That means oi paintings, watercolours, pastels, engravings, sculptures, costumes, artifacts, medals, manuscripts, maps, plans, photographs all part of a fasfacinating Montreal's heritage. **Témoignages** an exhibition consisting of nearly 200 works will be held at Montreal City Hall from **Sept 18th to 29th. Admission is free so call 861-7182 for more info.**

Anyone who's interested in Black Wedge-type stuff can go hear (FREE!) David Pritchett at Cafe' Commun/e, 201 Milton, Friday night at 8pm. David was on last year's Black Wedge tour. He may possibly maybe be joined by Jean Smith of **Mecca Normal**, sans guitarist.

As for **ULTIMATUM II**, you re missing out if you don't catch at least some of this festival. Friday night is the "Mutant-Junkie-Corporate Dinner served up live from Manhattan's Lower East Side". Darius James, a well-known American writer and performance artist, has been working on this show for the last three months. It should feature the best of underground New York.

Saturday is another New York show with better-known artists (like John Giorno, for instance.) Le Milieu is at 5380 St. Laurent, just past St.Joseph. GO! - Ultimatum II provides a forum for acts you'd have to catch one-by-one (or not at all, gasp!) the rest of the year. GO!

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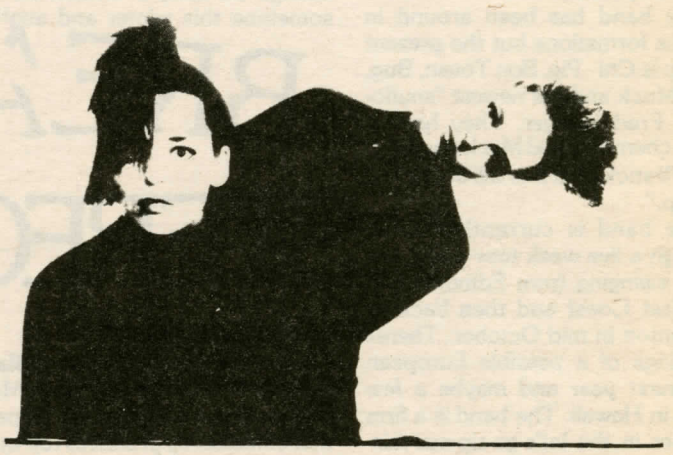

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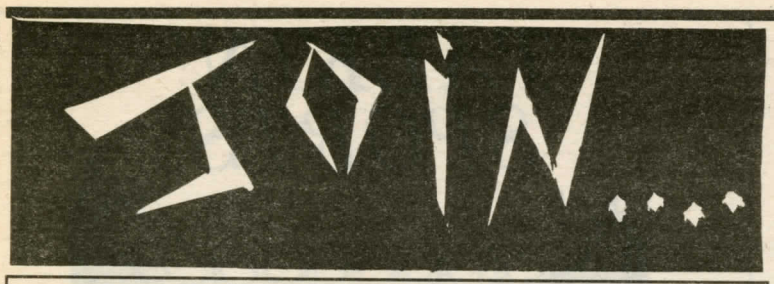

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Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 8, Number 2
Tuesday, September 15, 1987

the Link

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1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Suite H-649
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Telephone: 848-7405
Advertising Department: 848-7406

The Link is published every Tuesday and Friday during the academic year by the Link Publications Society, inc. Content is independent of the university and the Concordia University Sudents' Association. **Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *the Link* Constitution.** Any student is welcome to join *the Link* and become a voting staff member. **Central mailing address: Concordia University, Sir George Williams Campus, room H-649, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8.** For national advertising *the Link* is a member of Campus Plus (Canadian University Press Media Services Limited), 124 Merton St., Toronto, Ontario, M4S 2Z2, (416) 481-7283. Typesetting by *the Link*. Printed by Inter-Haut Development. ***The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.**

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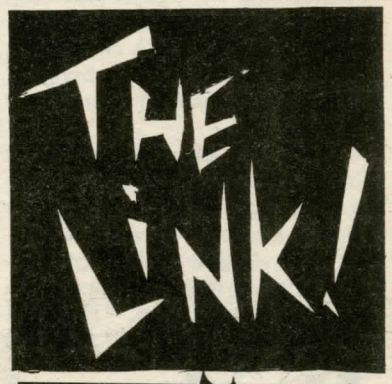

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Sports

Women's soccer set to go

by Leanne Murray

It's that timeof year again. Back to school,books, and the soccer field, though not necessarily in that order for the two dozen women currently vying for a spot on Concordia's Varsity women's soccer team.

The team, under head coach Kathy Lipari and her assistant Barb Nicholls, is curretly practicing four times a week in preparation for their home opener next Wednesday vs Sherbrooke.

A former Stinger herself, Lipari was a little disappointed with the number of women trying out. Both she and Nicholls are faced with several holes to fill with the graduations of Donna Hill and Dominique Fortier, and the departures of Deborah Forster (rookie-MVP) and Donna Jarka (team-MVP). "They are", Lipari admits, "big losses. We'll miss their leadership."

"But", she adds,"we have several good veterans returning, as well as four or five rookies who play in the provincial league and one national team player in Annie Caron. We still have a good shot at the league even though we're lacking in numbers."

Having been together for only a week, what the Stingers need most is time. Time to mold together as a team in order to work better with each other on the field. Lipari believes this will come with playing experience.

The lack of training was evident last weekend in the team's poor showing in the Sherbrooke Invitational Tournament. Missing several key individuals and fielding only 10 players, the Stingers scrambled to stay close in their first game vs McGill, who have been practicing for almost a month. But the Martlets, last year's QUAA champions, proved too much for the Stingers, waltzing away with an easy 8-0 victory.

Lipari was philosophical about the defeat. Only an exhibition tournament, the Stingers used their games as learning experiences, trying new ideas and different positions. "It was the teams' first game together" said Lipari. "The girls didn't know each other." "And" she said "when a team shows up with 22 players, two coaches, two trainers, and their own fans (which McGill did) that's pretty intimidating."

Never giving up, it was in the second game vs Sherbrooke that the Stinger's real potential began to show. They played a tight, close checking defensive game, losing only 2-0 to the Sherbrooke Vert et Or, who had earlier defeated McGill 4-0.

"We had a big talk between games" said Lipari "and the Vets had a lot to say. In the Sherbrooke game, the whole team hada lot more heart, and they were talking to each other better. We played them (Sherbrooke) very close. It was 0-0 until midway through the second half."

When asked about a league championship and possible trip to the first national women's soccer championship (which Concordia will be hosting this year) Lipari replied, "anything's possible. We still need to work on the technical, basic skills like trapping, stopping and passing. And" she adds "right now, we don't have a goalie so we will have to train one. Rookie Suzanne Oaks has tremendous potential in that position."

Veteran Brenda Flannely along with rookies Leslie Clement and Sue Dufresne who all play in the League Provinciale Senior Soccer Feminine (LPSSF) are Stinger strong points, as is Caron, the top goal scorer in the provincial league before joining the national team last year.

Photo Credit: Cheryl Tom

Melissa Horowitz, a veteran Stinger, beats out a defender during a Stinger scrimmage. The team opens up it's season next week against Sherbrooke on Loyola field. Coach Kathy Lipari is still welcoming eligible players.

Hockey fighting by CIAU

TORONTO (CUP)—The Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union is trying to take the fight out of its hockey players.

Beginning this season, any player involved in a fight will receive a major penalty, a game misconduct and a one-game suspension. The instigator, if determined, must serve an extra minor penalty and an extra one-game suspension.

The new, harsher rules, which were approved at the CIAU annual meeting held this summer in Guelph, represent what the CIAU president Gib Chapman called "a clear attempt to change the image of university hockey."

"We are trying to give a clear message that we are not prepared to put up with the type of play that has been happening the last two years," said Robert Steeward, chair of the University of Alberta athletics department and member of the CIAU administrative committee.

Other changes include disciplinary action above and beyond game penalties for players who accumulate misconduct penalties over the course of the season. This may include indefinite suspensions.

Enforcement may be difficult, however, since each regional conference must still elect to adopt the formula for its own schedule. It is possible that the new rules will only apply at the national championships.

The CIAU also tightened up age restrictions for students playing varsity hockey. While players have traditionally enjoyed five years of CIAU eligibility regardless of age, players over 26 years of age are now no longer eligible. In other words, a 21 year-old starting college or university will have the full five years to compete, but a 27 year-old just beginning post-secondary studies will be completely ineligible.

"The goal is to change university hockey to be developmental hockey," said chapman.

Many coaches, however disagree with the new restrictions.

"Is the notion of developmental hockey really practical?" asked Paul Titanic, U of T men's hockey coach. "The best younger players either go to junior 'A' or accept scholarships (to American schools). We're dreaming a little if we think we're going to get the top 18-year-olds to come to Canadian university."

Others, like Ontario University Athletics Association president Ray Johnson, fear that the age restriction will be open to challenges in court on the bases of age discrimination.

The summer meeting also announced a decision, also in effect this season, to drop gymnastics and diving as national sports. The decision followed the termination of gymnastics and/or diving programs at a number of Canadian universities.

TALKIN' SPORTS

Hockey fans' bloodlust deadend for Jr. players

By Michael Fairney

There's an unwritten law that pervades professional hockey. Everyone knows it, even if many of those with something to lose might not come right out and say it. It's simple: Violence sells.

It also kills.

The first victim is the sport itself, the *real* sport, the stuff you saw played between the Canadians and the Soviets in the Canada Cup, where the two teams played three games of fightless,extraordinary hockey. The thing that erroneously asks to be called sport is best illustrated by the game between the Nordiques and the Canadiens in last year's playoffs in whichthe bench clearing brawls began before the puck was dropped.

What amazes me is why they wound up dropping the puck at all. Why didn't they just let keep on fighting, or better yet, get some fans down on the ice to fight among themselves, perhaps with knives. Then we'd really get some blood.

That's what we want, isn't it? It all reminds me of grade school. The most exciting thing that could happen then was a fight in the playground. Seconds after the brawl began a tight ring of people would surround the fighters and egg them on. How far would we have gone if the teacher hadn't always stepped in? William Golding, author of *Lord of the Flies*, would probaly say all the way.

The prime virtue of true sports, of which hockey is an example, is that they serve to sublimate aggressive urges that lead to grotesque human behaviour. The fighting we see in pro hockey, and the voyeuristic T.V. people who bring the blood into our living rooms, and the fans who eat it up, simply degrades that function.

It's not the end of the world, it's only a bunch of atheletes venting their anger, (or are these things planned, like pro wrestling?), but it could, and quite likely will, bring about the end of the sport, at least as it should be played.

The second, and perhaps least important victims are the atheletes themselves. However, they make a lot of money, they know what they're getting into and they certainly never speak out against fighting. What does a bloody nose, an eye put out or even the odd death mean to them? That's life, right? Playing hockey for a living is Fun.

The real victims though are the 98% of Junior hockey players who never get drafted, who spend three or four years fighting,(and occaisionally playing hockey), trading away their chances at an education for the shot at a brief, bloody, lucrative career in the NHL. The current system in Canada discourages talented young players from playing University hockey, where you get excellent coaching and good competition, and encourages them to play Junior A, where a good goon is easily worth three or four solid, mediumly skilled hockey players. Even the greatest players, if they can't, or won't fight might as well forget it.

One positive sign, for the players anyway, is that a lot of them are taking advantage of sports scholarships in the States, then getting drafted by the NHL. The American program, run by the NCAA, has the added plus of having been able to cut down on the amount of fighting that goes on in their leagues by organizing their referees better and making it clear to them that they won't tolerate hooliganism.

The downside to all of this of course is that in the end, the Canadian University program suffers, being unable to attract the best players. CIAU players are no angels either though, as is apparent in the media reaction to last year's aggressively fought,(some say dirtily played) national championships.

The good news is that the CIAU has decided to crack down on fighting. This year, players who choose to fight will find themselves facing major penalties, game misconducts, and in severe cases indefinite suspensions. Whether this will have any effect on the game is yet to be seen, but it seems like a step in the right direction.

Paul Arsenault, coach of the Stingers Men's hockey team has reservations about the new rules. "They don't matter much to me. The way to stop dirty hockey is to improve communication with the referees. In 1985 when we had our own refs the hockey we played was clean. The refs knew how we, the coachs, wanted the game to be called and everything worked out fine. We could talk to them during games. Most of the time before that there was a lot of antagonism. It was like war."

Another suspicion is that the CIAU is simply bowing to media pressure. While Arsenault felt that the new rules came more from pressure from without than from within, McGill director of sports Bob Dubo felt good about the rules.

"The CIAU started to see the hockey being played as a game of ruffians. I fully support the new rules, and I'm optimistic that they will cut down on the fighting." The most interesting thing about the new rules might just be what influence they will have on Pro Hockey, if they prove effective. Will the NHL come to their senses and do the same?On this point, Dubo is not so optimistic, offering only a somewhat wistful reply: "I wonder if they would".

Well he might wonder. After all, who goes to the fridge during a fight?